

# Muscovy ducks (makoue)

Muscovy ducks have a number of advantages over other poultry.

• The ducks are resistant to most diseases, including Newcastle disease. They therefore do not need expensive vaccines to stay healthy.

#### Housing

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 Duck housing is far cheaper than broiler housing. The Muscovy duck does not need a pond either—water deep enough so that it can dip its head into it will also suffice.





Housing can be built from material available in the vicinity. The ducks are free-ranging, but their wings have to be clipped to prevent them from flying into a neighbour's yard.

### Products from ducks

- Feathers from ducks could be used for making pillows and duvets.
- The male Muscovy duck can reach a live mass of 4,8 kg in 12 weeks. The **meat** tastes rather like venison.
- The Muscovy duck can lay 195 **eggs** in a 40-week laying cycle. The eggs can also be eaten or used for baking.

## Further plus points

- Muscovy ducks hatch their own eggs. One male for 4 to 7 females is needed to obtain good fertility.
- The ducks can be used to control all kinds of insects. This is an advantage in areas where flies are a problem.

### Feeding

- Ducks can adapt to different environments, and can eat things that chickens, turkeys or other domestic animals cannot reach since they are good swimmers.
- You can feed Muscovy ducklings starter crumbles until the age of 4 weeks. After that, you can feed them broiler grower pellets until they are ready to be slaughtered at 12 weeks.
- Mature ducks can seek their own food, but they will lay better if you feed them laying pellets.

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